

## Plan Commission “Kicks-Off” Smart Growth Planning Process

**Tuesday, April 29, 2003** –After sending a postcard invitation to every Town landowner (660) the Town of Winchester Plan Commission hosted a kick-off meeting for the Comprehensive (Smart Growth) Plan.



Over the next 18 months, the Plan Commission will be working with Town residents, business owners and its planning consultant (OMNNI Associates), to develop a plan that will guide the Town over the next 20 years.

Plan Commission Chairman, Mike Schlimm, welcomed all in attendance and introduced Amy Emery and Bob Stadel of OMNNI Associates, the Town’s planning consultant.

At this point, Ms. Emery gave a detailed presentation to answer the following questions:

- ? [What is Smart Growth?](#)
- ? [Why is the Town Developing a Plan?](#)
- ? [How can you get involved?](#)

To Learn More about these 3 Topics check out the Opportunities to Participate, Schedule, and Smart Growth Links on this Web Site.

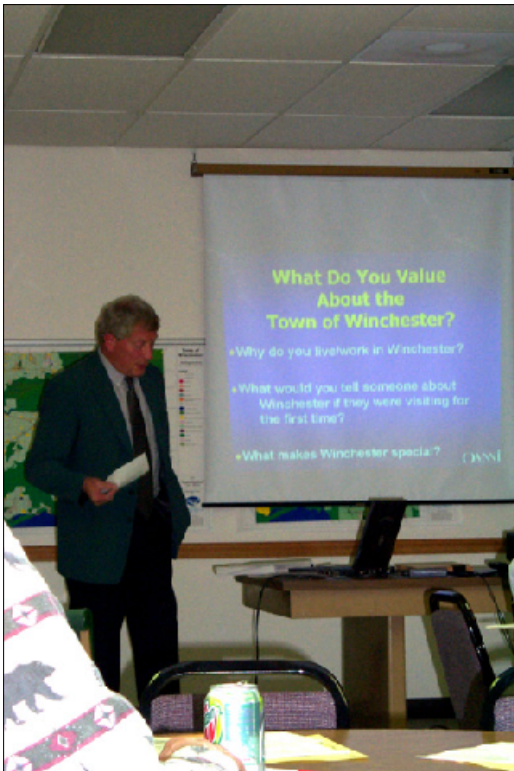
During the presentation Ms. Emery informed the Plan Commission that letters had been sent to neighboring communities, Winnebago County, Town of Winchester Sanitary District, the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, welcoming their involvement in the planning process.



Amy Emery of OMNNI, Presents Information to Winchester Residents.

The presentation also highlighted some of the key issues the Smart Growth Plan will need to address. These issues include:

- ? [Farmland Preservation](#)
- ? [Development in the Sanitary District](#)
- ? [Development at the USH 10/USH 45 Interchange](#)
- ? [Population Growth](#)
- ? [Natural Resource Protection](#)
- ? [Trail Development](#)



Bob Stadel of OMNNI, asks residents, "What Makes Winchester Special?"

At this point, OMNNI asked participants to answer the following questions:

- ? What do you value about the Town?
- ? What makes the Town special?
- ? What would you tell someone about the Town who is visiting for the first time?

Everyone was provided a ½ sheet of paper to write down his or her answers. OMNNI asked for volunteers to share their answers. Generally, the answers reflected a great pride in the rural atmosphere of the community. A list of common answers will be provided in the *Plan Introduction Chapter* of the Town of Winchester Smart Growth Plan.



A group of residents works to define the town's strengths and weaknesses.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to performing a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threats (SWOT) exercise. Everyone in attendance was asked to describe what he or she felt were the Town's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities to improve itself, and threats to its well-being.



Bob Stadel & Amy Emery Record Group Ideas for Discussion

After everyone had recorded their own ideas, participants worked in groups to discuss their answers and decide on the most important Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat facing the Town. Each group then shared their collective answers, while Amy Emery and Bob Stadel recorded the ideas. Individuals were then asked to vote on what they believe is the most important strengths and weakness. The results of this exercise will be incorporated into the

"Issues and Opportunities" Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Plan Commission will meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month to work on the Smart Growth Plan. The **next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 27, 2003 at the Town Hall.** At this meeting the focus will be on discussing visions for the future. Residents are encouraged to attend any meeting.

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